

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXIX.....No. 30

AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—ITALIAN OPERA—TONE.

PIRELO'S GARDEN, Broadway—CONKE'S SOCIETY.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—NAVAL ENGAGEMENTS—OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMEN.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway—TICKET OF LEAVE MAN.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway—A BULL IN A CHINA SHOP—MAREPPE.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—ROCKWOOD—SARATOGA—MAREPPE—TICKET OF LEAVE MAN.

ROBERT THEATRE, Bowery—HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT—ADDED GIG—LOOK THE LASSER.

BARBON'S MUSEUM, Broadway—FRENCH GIANTS, GIANT GIG, GIANT BOY, &c., all hours, CAMILLA'S HEAD, &c., at 5 and 7 1/2 P. M.

BRITANNIA MINSTRELS, Mechanic's Hall, 472 Broadway—BRITANNIA MINSTRELS, DANCERS, BURLINGAME, &c.—THE BRITANNIA FAMILY.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 54 Broadway—ETHIOPIAN SONG, DANCER, &c.—RAILROAD EXPOSITION.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 44 Broadway—BALLET, FANTOMES, BURLINGAME, &c.—HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT.

BROADWAY AMPHITHEATRE, 63 Broadway—GYMNASTIC AND EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCES. Attention and Acrobatic.

HOPE CHAPEL, 715 Broadway—THE THEATROCRAT & MINION OF THE THEATROCRAT.

FERRARI'S, 65 Broadway—STREETSCOPERS AND MINION OF THE STREETSCOPERS.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 63 Broadway—COSMETICS AND LECTURES, 9 A. M. TO 10 P. M.

BOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn—ETHIOPIAN SONG, DANCER, BURLINGAME, &c.

New York, Sunday, January 31, 1864.

THE SITUATION.

The news from Kentucky tells of a disaster to a small portion of the Union troops at Scottville, in which a small part of the Forty-eighth Kentucky, numbering about one hundred and fifty men, were compelled to surrender to the rebels, five hundred strong, under Colonel Hamilton. The rebel officer, contrary to an agreement with Captain Gillum, the commander of the Union troops, destroyed the court house with all the public documents, and robbed several stores in the town.

Official despatches from General Foster yesterday report pretty fully and satisfactorily the proceedings of the rebel cavalry whose operations in the vicinity of Knoxville we noted yesterday. Our cavalry, under General Sturges, met them at Fair Gardens, ten miles east of Senerville, and drove them back, after a fight which lasted from daylight until four o'clock in the afternoon, taking two of their rifled guns and one hundred prisoners. The enemy left sixty-five killed and wounded on the field after the charge of General McCook's division.

An attack of the enemy, six hundred strong, was made on Athens, Ala., on the 25th instant. We had only about one hundred men there, but, according to the report, the Union troops drove back the enemy after a fight of two hours, with the loss of twenty men.

The rebels were also driven from Tunnel Hill in Alabama by General Palmer. A company of their cavalry was captured, and thirty-two of them were killed and wounded.

The news from the Potomac Army is entirely unimportant. A few guerrilla raids of very little consequence are the only incidents which break the monotony of the situation.

We publish some very interesting news to-day from New Orleans and the Gulf up to the 26th inst. Admiral Farragut had arrived at New Orleans. Desertions from the enemy at Mobile were very large, many of them joining our fleet while lying off that port. Two of the HERALD correspondents, we are glad to say, are about to return from the hands of the Philistines. Mr. Gatchell has been exchanged and is now in New Orleans. Mr. Finley Anderson, after a tedious captivity of nearly a year, will, it is said, be also released when the cartel for the exchange of prisoners in Texas, where Mr. Anderson now is, can be arranged.

The rebel news relative to affairs at Charleston is to the 28th instant. Five shells were fired into the city on that day, and poor old dispirited Sumter returned fire shots, all of which are said to have struck our batteries at Fort Gregg and Cummings' Point.

What, then, are we to do to avoid the excitement and dangers of a disorderly Presidential scrub race? Let the friends of General Grant—and "their name is legion"—push forward his claims upon the country, and let them cause it to be understood, as in the case of old Zach. Taylor, that he will be run and actively supported as a Presidential candidate; and should the Republican Convention fail to perceive its true policy, the Democratic Convention, in the name of General Grant, will have the power to achieve the greatest political victory and the most glorious political revolution in the history of the United States.

which will leave Southampton on the 9th of February. The side wall of the building No. 3 Bridge street fell in with a terrific crash yesterday afternoon about five o'clock, burying a man named John McQuillan and a horse and cart in the ruins. The damage by the disaster is estimated at fifteen thousand dollars.

The sporting fraternity are referred to on account of the legal proceedings in the English courts in regard to the recent prize fight between King and Heenan, which we publish in another part of to-day's paper.

There was not much life in business places on Saturday—the fluctuations in gold having tended to decrease the usually small business transacted on Saturdays. There was some activity in certain commodities; but, as a general thing, business was dull. At the Produce Exchange the complexion was, in the main, unchanged. Transactions were mainly on the basis of Friday's prices, and there was no general activity. In imported merchandise only a small business was transacted, owing to the difference in the views of buyers and sellers. Grains were quiet. Cotton dull and heavy. Petroleum about steady. Freight was quiet and unchanged.

President Lincoln's Plan of Reconstruction—What Does it Amount To? With the promulgation of President Lincoln's last annual message, it was evident upon the face of the document that he was a candidate for another term, and that his message was a proclamation involving his plan for the reconstruction of the Union—was his bid and his platform for the coming Presidential campaign. This fact has been at length ostentatiously paraded before the country by some of its leading newspaper organs, with many reasons and arguments going to show that this benefit-cent programme is the very thing demanded by the crisis, and that in thus winning the approbation and confidence of the loyal States President Lincoln has become the choice of their people for the succession.

Thus challenged by this boastful flourish of trumpets, let us briefly examine this wonderful system of reorganization, whereby slavery is to be abolished with the readmission of the rebellious States, and the millennium of universal emancipation is to dawn upon our Union restored. The amnesty proclamation, excluding from its benefits a numerous catalogue of rebel civil and military offenders which it is needless here to repeat, proposes to grant a full pardon to all other persons concerned in the rebel States upon the simple condition of an oath by every such person to support and defend hereafter the federal constitution and the Union of the States thereunder, and that "I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified or held void by Congress or by decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court. So help me God."

Such is the individual oath which is to be the groundwork of the proposed system of reconstruction. Now we come to the superstructure itself. Thus proceeds the President to develop it. Hear him:—"And I do further proclaim, declare and make known that whenever, in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina, a number of persons not less than one-tenth in number of the votes cast in such States at the Presidential election of the year of our Lord 1860—each having taken the oath aforesaid, and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election law of the State existing immediately before the so-called act of secession, and excluding all others—shall re-establish a State government, which shall be republican, and in nowise contravening said oath, such shall be recognized as the true government of the State, and the State shall receive thereunder the benefit of the constitutional provision which declares that 'the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion, and on application of the Legislature, or of the Executive when the Legislature cannot be convened, against domestic violence.'"

Now, let us suppose that under this arrangement Arkansas, for instance, is readmitted into the Union. What follows? The State is immediately re-invested with all the State rights, powers and reservations which belong to the loyal States. Say that even one-fifth or one-third of the voters of the State, under the oath prescribed, have achieved this rehabilitation, what does it amount to? The authorities and the people of the State may immediately proceed, through another constitutional convention, to change their State constitution, and thus slavery may be fully re-established before the end of the year. Wendell Phillips thoroughly comprehends this thing as a trick of the Presidential juggler. Mr. Lincoln makes sure work of the Presidential vote of any State or States he may thus reclaim in season for the November national election; but beyond that, within the States concerned, this crude and imperfect system of restoration forethinks nothing better than "confusion worse confounded" than ever before.

There will be a rupture in the administration camps on this question. The genuine abolition elements of the party have no faith in these double-dealing theories of President Lincoln. From the day of his revocation of General Fremont's Missouri emancipation edict they have learned to distrust Old Abe and to watch him, and have been laboring to supplant him. If they still entertained any reservations in his favor they were dismissed with his settlement of the late Missouri muddle, and with the reading of this amnesty proclamation, and its pettifoggery, flimsy and incoherent plan of reconstruction. Between the Lincoln trimmers and the uncompromising radicals of the republican party we may, therefore, expect two parties and two Presidential candidates as the results of the Republican National Convention. The silence of the New York Tribune in regard to the claims of Honest Old Abe is ominous of impending mischief.

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We are in possession of very important news from Mexico. Another revolution had broken out in the city of Matamoros, resulting in the overthrow of the existing authorities and the establishment of Cortinas in the supreme, though doubtless temporary power. Governor Ruiz and his principal officers had been compelled to flee for protection to the federal camps, and there they were, at last accounts, in a state of safety. The deaths of both Cardenas and Lopez are reported, as well as another beheading of the hunted Juarez. The detailed account of our correspondent is highly interesting.

A stay of proceedings was granted in the case of John B. Holmes yesterday, by Judge Leonard, of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, and the case will now come up for argument before the Supreme Court, general term.

There will be no Hamburg steamship from Hamburg and Southampton of January 26, in consequence of the ice in the river Elbe. The first steamer due from those ports is the Hammonia,

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